

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- Claim 1. (original) A method of identifying an agent effective in modulating Stat3-dependent cell proliferation, said method comprising the steps of:
- i) incubating TEL/Etv6 with a compound;
 - ii) detecting TEL/Etv6 activity; and
 - iii) determining a compound-induced modulation in the TEL/Etv6 activity relative to when said compound is absent, wherein an alteration of the TEL/Etv6 activity in the presence of the compound is indicative of an agent effective in modulating Stat3-dependent cell proliferation.
- Claim 2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said modulation is inhibition of ~~TEL/Etv6~~ TEL/Etv6 activity and said agent is effective in enhancing cytokine-induced inhibition of cell proliferation.
- Claim 3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said modulation is activation of TEL/Etv6 activity and said agent is effective in inhibiting proliferation of cells expressing Stat3, wherein said Stat3 is phosphorylated.
- Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said cell proliferation is independent of ras activity.
- Claim 5. (currently amended) The method of ~~the preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said cell proliferation is of a melanoma or carcinoma.

- Claim 6. (currently amended) A method for identifying an agent effective in modulating Stat3-dependent cell proliferation, said method comprising the steps of:
- (i) incubating at least one ~~TEL/Etv6~~ TEL/Etv6 polypeptide selected from the group consisting of TEL/Etv6, a variant and a fragment thereof, with a binding partner in the presence of a test compound; and
 - (ii) determining whether the presence of a test compound modulates the interaction between said TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and said binding partner relative to when said test compound is absent.
- Claim 7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the variant or fragment of TEL/Etv6 has the ability to bind Stat3.
- Claim 8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the fragment of TEL/Etv6 is between 50 and 350 amino acids in length.
- Claim 9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said binding partner is ~~Stats~~ Stat3, a variant or fragment thereof.
- Claim 10. (currently amended) The method of ~~the preceding claim 1~~, further comprising confirming that the test compound is a modulator of Stat3-dependent cell proliferation.
- Claim 11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said TEL/Etv6 polypeptide or the binding partner is labelled with a detectable label, and the other is immobilised on a solid support.
- Claim 12. (currently amended) The method according to ~~the preceding claim 6~~, wherein the modulation is inhibition of said interaction.

Claim 13. (original) The method according to claim 12 comprising the step of confirming that the substance inhibits cell proliferation of a cytokine-sensitive cancer.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, comprising determining whether said test compound inhibits the physical association between TEL/Etv6 and Stat3.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6 said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) contacting a cell expressing TEL/Etv6, a variant or fragment thereof which has the ability to interact with said binding partner, with a test compound, and
- (ii) identifying substances which inhibit said interaction in said cell.

Claim 16. (original) The method according to claim 15, said method comprising:

- (i) providing a cell capable of expressing the TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and its binding partner and a reporter gene construct,
- (ii) contacting the cell with a test compound, whereby inhibition by the test compound of binding between the TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and the binding partner can be observed as a reduction of reporter gene expression.

Claim 17. (original-provisionally withdrawn) A mammalian cell capable of expressing a TEL/Etv6 polypeptide, its binding partner, and a reporter gene construct, whereby binding between said TEL/Etv6 polypeptide and said binding partner can be observed by reporter gene expression.

Claim 18. (original-provisionally withdrawn) A method of inhibiting Stat3 expressing cancer cell proliferation, said method comprising contacting a cancer cell expressing Stat3 with an effective amount of an activator of TEL in an amount sufficient to inhibit Stat3 activity.

- Claim 19. (original-provisionally withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said Stat3 is phosphorylated.
- Claim 20. (original-provisionally withdrawn) A method of inhibiting cytokine sensitive cancers, said method comprising contacting a cytokine-sensitive cancer cell with an effective amount of an inhibitor of TEL activity in an amount sufficient to enhance Stat3 activity.
- Claim 21. (original-provisionally withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the inhibition of activity is caused by down-regulating TEL/Etv6, or a homologue thereof in the cell.
- Claim 22. (original-provisionally withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein said down-regulation is caused by RNAi.
- Claim 23. (original-provisionally withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein said down-regulation is caused by an at least partially double-stranded RNA of between 20 and 25 bps in length, comprising an RNA sequence encoding a portion of TEL/Etv6 or a homologue thereof.
- Claim 24. (original-provisionally withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein said TEL inhibitor is an antibody or antibody fragment.
- Claim 25. (Previously presented-provisionally withdrawn) The method according to claim 20, wherein the inhibition of activity is caused by inhibiting the interaction of TEL/Etv6, or a homologue thereof with a binding partner in the cell.
- Claim 26. (original-provisionally withdrawn) The method according to claim 25 wherein the binding partner is Stat3.
- Claim 27. (cancel).

Claim 28. (cancel).

Claim 29. (cancel).

Claim 30. (cancel).

Claim 31. (new-provisionally withdrawn) A method of inhibiting cell proliferation of a cytokine-sensitive cancer cell comprising at least partially double-stranded RNA, which comprises an RNA sequence encoding TEL/Etv6, a homologue or a fragment thereof.

Claim 32. (new-provisionally withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein said dsRNA is an siRNA duplex of between 20 and 25 bps.

Claim 33. (new-provisionally withdrawn) A method of treating a patient suffering from a cytokine-sensitive cancer comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an inhibitor of TEL/Etv6 activity.

Claim 34. (new-provisionally withdrawn) A method of treating a patient suffering from STAT3 expressing cancer comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an activator of TEL/Etv6 activity.